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## NFSA Announces Passing of Tax Reform Bill Provisions to Incentivize the Installation of Fire Sprinklers

After over 14 years of work, the National Fire Sprinkler Association is proud to announce that it is now time for property owners across the United States to invest in a fire sprinkler system or to retrofit their buildings with lifesaving and property conserving protection.

In December, Congress passed the most sweeping tax reform legislation since 1986. Included in this legislation (P.L. 115-97) are two provisions that will greatly incentivize the installation of fire sprinklers. The National Fire Sprinkler Association appreciates the efforts and work that happened for over that past 14 years prior to this passage that now allows fire sprinklers to be included. The NFSA is grateful to Congressman Jim Langevin, who has championed this inclusion since the beginning due to the Station Nightclub fire tragedy occurring in his district.



We also thank our fire service partners who supported these provisions including the Congressional Fire Services Institute, International Fire Chiefs Association, International Fire Fighters Association, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, National Fire Protection Association, Common Voices, National Volunteer Fire Council, Security Industry Association, Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors and many others. Understanding the costs of fire is important to business owners across America, and NFSA will now shift our focus to sharing this information with our fire service allies and stakeholder groups that are directly affected.

The fire sprinkler incentives are: • Cost Recover Section 13201 – Previously sprinkler systems in commercial structures were depreciated over a 39-year time horizon and residential structures over 27.5 years. Under the new law any sprinkler system installed after September 27, 2017 in either a commercial or residential structure until December 31, 2022 will be able to be fully expensed. Therefore, the property owner will be able to immediately write off the full cost of the sprinkler system. After 2022 the ability to deduct the cost is as follows: 2023 80%, 2024 60%, 2025 40%, 2026 20%. In 2027, the depreciation schedule will revert to 39 and 27.5 years for commercial and residential properties respectively.

For additional information and examples of how the provisions can be applied, go the NFSA website at: [Tax Reform Fire Sprinkler Provisions](#).

### **UNLV Study Wants Fire Sprinklers in all New Homes.**

In an article posted on line by December 29, 2017 by Jamie Munks of the Las Vegas Review-Journal, it was reported that a UNLV study concluded that the Las Vegas City Council should mandate automatic fire sprinkler systems for all new single-family homes. This is a measure that city officials have left on the table without a vote for months.

A presentation on the UNLV cost-benefit analysis is listed on Wednesday's City Council agenda but has already been delayed. The council OK'd the business impact statement for the fire sprinkler proposal in May, a precursor to voting on the ordinance itself. But the measure mandating fire suppression sprinkler systems in all new residences has been in limbo since.

Las Vegas Mayor Carolyn Goodman said Friday she hasn't heard a convincing argument for why the city shouldn't require sprinklers. "Safety is always first to me," Goodman said.

Southern Nevada Home Builders Association Executive Director Nat Hodgson said in an email that the association is in talks with city officials "to address our concerns about the impact of sprinklers on homebuyers." For more information and to obtain a copy of the article go to: [UNLV Study Wants Fire Sprinklers](#)

### **NFSA Announces Election Results.**

NFSA was pleased to announce in December the results of the SAM Council elections. In the contested races for four of the Sam Council seats the following members were elected,

Ray Fremont Sr. General Air Products, Inc.  
Mark Knurek, Lubrizol,  
Cary Nicol, Viking SupplyNet,  
David Vandeyar, Newburg Windustrial

Those elected in the non-contested races for Area Director were;

Area 5, John Ackley,  
Area 8, John Kauffman,  
Area 12, Jim Boulanger

These terms are for 3-years and will be sworn in at the March 1, 2018 Board of Directors meeting in San Antonio, Texas. Congratulations to all and thank you for your service to the NFSA!

### **"Save the Date!" NFSA Chapters in the Southwest Announce Meeting Schedules!**

The Southwest NFSA Chapters will be meeting throughout the year and have pretty much set their meeting calendars. The Arizona State Chapter will hold their meetings at the Phoenix Fire Department Headquarters at 150 S. 12<sup>th</sup> Street in Phoenix, Arizona beginning in January. The luncheon meetings are

planned for January 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 13<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>, July 10<sup>th</sup>, September 11<sup>th</sup>, and concluding the 2018 schedule on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Lunch is typically sponsored and provided for each meeting.

The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter meets on the odd number calendar months and hold dinner meetings that follow the Local 483 Industry Promotions meeting. Typically, the meetings begin at 5:00 p.m. and are held on the fourth Thursday of the meeting month. The meeting in January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at Barone’s Restaurant located at 475 St. Johns Street Vineyard Room, Pleasanton, CA. The additional meetings are tentatively scheduled this year for March 22<sup>nd</sup>, May 24<sup>th</sup>, July 26<sup>th</sup> and concluding their meetings for 2018 on September 27<sup>th</sup>. The location is subject to change and will be announced prior to each meeting.

The Los Angeles Area Chapter will be meeting throughout the year at the Rio Hondo Golf and Event Center located at 10887 Old River Road in Downey, California. The evening meetings are planned for the even number calendar year months and are on the third Thursday on that month and are scheduled for February 15<sup>th</sup>, April 19<sup>th</sup>, June 21<sup>st</sup>, August 16<sup>th</sup> and concluding their 2018 meetings on November 15<sup>th</sup> due to the Fire Sprinkler Contractor’s Association Golf Event in October. These meetings are all dinner meetings beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting dates are occasionally modified throughout the year. For additional meeting information and dates go to the upcoming meeting schedule at the end of each regional report and on the NFSA West and NFSA Southwest websites.

**NFSA Training in the Southwest!**

2017 was a great year for training in the Southwest with classes conducted throughout the entire year and throughout the entire region. We want to thank our NFSA members for supporting our classes by sending their team members and to the AHJ’s for attending and for their participation. As you can see below, we are already lining up classes in 2018 with the first class set for Tucson, Arizona in January and in Merced, CA. in February! To sign up for a seminar go to: [seminars@nfsa.org](mailto:seminars@nfsa.org)



**2018 Schedule**

|  |        |               |
|--|--------|---------------|
| Two Day Plan Review of Fire Sprinkler Systems, Tucson. AZ.   | Dates: | 1/16-17, 2018 |
| Rough and Final Inspection of Sprinkler Systems, Tucson, AZ. | Dates: | 10/18, 2018   |
| 2-day Plan Review, UC Merced, Merced, CA.                    | Dates: | 2/21-22, 2018 |

**NFSA 2018 Tech Tuesday Schedule Announced for January-June!**

**January 16, 2018**

**Protecting Buildings Under Construction**

Presented by Bob Upson, Manager of Engineering Services

Buildings under construction pose special challenges for fire protection. This presentation will examine the requirements of NFPA 241 *Standard for Safeguarding Construction, Alteration, and Demolition Operations* and IBC Chapter 33 *Safeguards During Construction*.

**February 20, 2018**

**Discussing Design Approaches**

Presented by Louis Guerrazzi, E.I.T., Manager of Product Standards

Chapter 11 of NFPA 13 (2016) provides a layout technician the tools to determine the hydraulic design approach for a fire sprinkler system. While the pipe schedule method is still permitted for small systems which meet the requirements of Chapter 11, essentially all systems are now required to be hydraulically calculated based on Section 11.2.3. This seminar will discuss the available hydraulic design options, including the density/area method, room design method, and special design approaches, such as residential sprinklers, water curtains and a discussion on deluge systems.

**March 20, 2018**

**Understanding the 2017 Edition of NFPA 25**

Presented by John Corso, Director of Training

This seminar will address significant changes to the 2017 edition of NFPA 25, *Standard for the Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems*, including an overview of the changes in the reference tables. This seminar will also discuss clarifications of existing rules, addition of newly required procedures, adjustments to reference tables and changes in various time requirements for inspections and testing procedures.

**April 17, 2018**

**An Overview of Corrosion in Sprinkler Systems**

Presented by Mark Hopkins, P.E., Vice President of Engineering

This presentation identifies design limitations and installation pitfalls which influence corrosion in sprinkler systems. Topics will include how corrosion is commonly detected and why it is a problem. The basic forms of corrosion, its effects on system reliability, and failure mode concepts will be described. The basic framework for conducting corrosion investigations, factors for consideration in determining whether to salvage or replace a system, and possible corrosion management strategies will also be discussed.

**May 15, 2018**

**2015 and 2018 Changes to Building Codes for Sprinkler Contractors**

Presented by Jeff Hugo, CBO, Director of Codes

Building codes reference installation standards and while layout technicians and contractors know the installation standards well, there are numerous building code rules that affect layout and system design. This course highlights changes to the 2015 and 2018 *International Building Code, International Fire Code* and NFPA's *Life Safety Code* as it relates to the fire sprinkler contractor.

**June 19, 2018**

**Hydrant Flow Tests per NFPA 291**

Presented by Roland Asp, Manager of Installation Standards

Water-based fire protection systems rely on a reliable source of water and the municipal water system is a common source of this water. The characteristics of a municipal water supply is typically determined through hydrant flow tests. NFPA 291, *Recommended Practice for Fire Flow Testing and Marking of Hydrants*, highlights the proper procedures, equipment and data collection for these vital tests. This seminar will highlight the requirements of this recommended practice and will include valuable information on the various aspects of hydrant flow testing including: Procedures, Test Layout, Equipment and Determination of Discharge as well as proper data collection and limitations of the tested data.

Seminars qualify for NICET, Florida & Wisconsin CEU's.

NICET CREDITS (per class)-0.1 CEU/1 CPD

We are an ICC Preferred Provider.

SEMINARS BEGIN AT 10:30 a.m. Eastern Time

**Registration Fee: \$50 per seminar for Members & AHJs/\$150 per seminar for Non-Members.**

(Certificates are available at an extra fee of \$10 each, please contact [seminars@nfsa.org](mailto:seminars@nfsa.org) for information)



**NFSA 2018 Annual Seminar and Business & Leadership  
Conference News!**

The National Fire Sprinkler Association is proud to present the 2018 Annual Seminar and Business & Leadership Conference. The event will focus on leadership and business development, as well as technical topics of specific interest to the fire sprinkler industry. We will be featuring nationally-renowned business, Association and technical speakers, interactive breakout sessions, unique networking opportunities, the "back-by-popular-demand" volleyball competition and the Annual Common Voices Golf Outing! Join us **May 1-5, 2018** at the magnificent Marriot Harbor Beach Hotel in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. This is an event you WON'T want to miss! More details coming soon.

**Fire Sprinkler Saves in the Southwest!!**

The month of December saw three successful fire sprinkler saves in the Southwest!!!

December 1, Honolulu, HI. Honolulu, HI - Fire in 37th floor high rise condo extinguished by fire sprinkler system. A fire at a new luxury tower condominium in Kakaako was extinguished today by an activated fire

sprinkler according to a Honolulu Fire Department spokesman. Firefighters received a call at about 3:45 p.m. from a person on the 37th floor of Keauhou Place, 555 South St., about smoke coming from the floor. View the full post at <http://sprinklersaves.com/2017/12/honolulu-hi-fire-in-37th-floor-high-rise-condo-extinguished-by-sprinkler-system/>.

December 13, Palo Alto, CA – Fire sprinkler system extinguishes kitchen fire at an 88-unit affordable housing complex. Seven residents were displaced by a kitchen fire successfully extinguished by the fire sprinkler system at the Opportunity Center in Palo Alto on Saturday evening. View the full post at <http://sprinklersaves.com/2017/12/palo-alto-ca-sprinkler-system-extinguishes-kitchen-fire-at-88-unit-affordable-housing-complex/>.

December 20, Santa Maria, CA – Fire sprinkler system halts blaze after man sets fire to police department Christmas tree. A 23-year-old Guadalupe man was arrested when he allegedly set a Santa Maria Police Department Christmas tree on fire in their own lobby. Santa Maria police say Steven Minami, 23, contacted police to report he was paranoid and believed someone had hacked into his computer. View the full post at <http://sprinklersaves.com/2017/12/santa-maria-ca-sprinkler-system-halts-blaze-after-man-sets-fire-to-police-department-christmas-tree/>.

### Upcoming Meeting Schedule in the Southwest!

**So-Cal Fire Prevention Officers Association**, Wednesday, January 10, 2018 from 10:00 - 3:00 at the International Code Council located at 3060 Saturn Street, Suite 100, Brea, California.

**Nor Cal Fire Prevention Officers Association**, Friday, January 17, 2018 from 9:30 -3:00 in Mather, California at the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District Headquarters, 10545 Armstrong Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Boardroom.

**Arizona NFSA Chapter Meeting**, Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at the Phoenix Fire Department Headquarters at 150 S. 12<sup>th</sup> Street in Phoenix, AZ. Lunch will be provided.

**NFSA San Francisco Bay Area Chapter Meeting**, Thursday, January 25, 2018 at Barone's Restaurant located at 475 St. Johns Street Vineyard Room, Pleasanton, CA. This will be a Signatory Contractors only meeting beginning at 4:15.

**California Fire Sprinkler Coalition Meeting**, Monday, January 29, 2018 at 10:00 am to noon. You will be able to attend the meeting by accessing teleconference at 1-855-747-8824, access number: 446676#.

**San Diego Fire Protection Association**, Tuesday, February 13, 2018, La Mesa, California at Marie Callendar's 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 pm. Please note that the SDFPA has changed meeting dates from monthly to every other even month for 2018.

**NFSA Los Angeles Area Chapter Meeting**, Thursday, February 15, 2018 at the Rio Hondo Golf and Event Center in Downey California at 10627 Old River Road. Guests are welcome to attend for cocktails and conversation from 4:30 – 5:30 followed by our Chapter Dinner Meeting from 5:30 pm to conclusion.

**Not getting the most from your membership???**

- Are you and your staff accessing time-saving Expert of the Day when you have an issue that is taking a lot of time to resolve?
- Do you and your staff know how to search the extensive NFSA Technical archives?
- Are the NFSA Technical Updates reaching the right people? Are you involved in the many social media platforms to learn the latest industry information, and share what you and your company have to say?

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, please give me a call to schedule a time to stop by your office. I want to make sure you are getting a great return on your investment with NFSA!

Your Regional manager is Bruce Lecair... (951) 805-8992 or at: [lecair@nfsa.org](mailto:lecair@nfsa.org).

